

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2009
5:30 PM

Present: Audrey Murphy, Joe Van Deurzen, Mary Scray, Harold Pfothenhauer, J. Tibbetts, M.D.

Absent: Don Murray

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, John Paul

Guests Present: Scott Patrick (WTAQ), Jeff Buboltz (WI Department of Family Services), Sarah Strelow (WI Department of Family Services), Julie Beyton (UWGB Nursing Student)

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & BOARD STATUS UPDATE

Board members and guests introduced themselves. Judy welcomed Joe Van Deurzen back to the board. Judy also announced that Vue Lor-Yang has officially resigned her position on the board. Judy has approached a leader in the Hmong community to try to find another potential board member to fill the current vacancy.

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Van Deurzen / Pfothenhauer

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2009

MOTION: to receive and place on file Van Deurzen / Pfothenhauer

MOTION CARRIED

4. UPDATE ODOR ORDINANCE / COMPLAINTS

John Paul distributed information regarding complaints that were called in to the health department in the last year (attached). The complaints related to eight different odor sources. Three of the complaints listed were in relation to agricultural land-spreading, which is exempt from the nuisance ordinance.

John indicated that he and other health department staff visited Packerland to view the new stack that was recently installed. He also stated that the citation that was issued to Packerland last October has been dismissed due to the

successful completion of the required stack upgrade. Audrey asked John if he felt that the stack would be effective – he indicated that he does.

Judy stated that the revision to the nuisance ordinance that was discussed at the last meeting was approved by the County Board.

MOTION: To receive and place on file. Van Deurzen / Scray

MOTION CARRIED

5. UPDATE NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA A

Judy stated that the planning that has been done over the last several years was very helpful in responding to H1N1. Goals were to reduce transmission and severity and to provide information and assistance to a variety of groups including the general public. Currently, there are 21 confirmed cases between Brown County, De Pere and Oneida. 261 tests were negative. Most cases have been young adults. The state has speculated that the high number of cases in Wisconsin is more a function of the large amount of testing that has been done and probably not a higher number of actual cases in the state. As of May 11, the testing criteria are ramped down – the state is focusing testing on those with severe illness, healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities. This reduction in individual testing is moving toward surveillance methods for typical seasonal influenza, which is not individual based. The state is not (at this point in the outbreak) recommending closure of schools, daycare centers, etc. when a single case is confirmed – instead, health department staff send a letter to parents of classmate or coworkers with notifying them of a case and providing information on prevention of transmission of the virus and symptoms to watch for to assure early isolation. Pharmaceutical companies are working with CDC to possibly develop a 2-dose vaccine that would be administered in addition to the seasonal influenza vaccine. The amount of vaccine able to be produced is not known.

A total of 7 press conferences have been held – one jointly with De Pere and another jointly with the Green Bay school district. Judy also participated in a panel web-discussion sponsored by the Press Gazette. Talking points were distributed to media at each press conference. Planning sessions were held in person and via teleconference with first responders that have also included the mayor, county executive, representatives from school districts and health care personnel. Communication also took place throughout the event using the E-Sponder website which is routinely used by emergency government. Staff translated informational materials to Spanish and distributed the materials in key sites. Information was also distributed to churches through an interdenominational group. A number of broadcast faxes were sent out to groups such as the schools and infection control practitioners. Also, many updates were sent out to health care practitioners, sometimes several times per day in the

beginning of the outbreak when many outbreak management changes occurred. The after-hours answering service was helpful in fielding calls from healthcare providers. The state held teleconferences 3 times a week and reduced that number to twice a week until concluding them altogether.

Dr. Tibbetts said that he would like to offer sincere support to Judy and the department for handling this complicated issue. He stated that there were a couple of editorials that were not totally flattering but were understandable on both sides. He stated that he would like to go on record offering his support. Audrey said that she agreed and would like to thank Judy and the staff.

Judy said that, regarding the editorial in the Press Gazette, because of HIPAA rules, identifying information cannot be released in relation to cases. The state guideline is to release as little information as possible to protect the public's health. Age and gender are not information that would be helpful to the public for containment purposes.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John Paul said that the department has been awarded a Radon mini-grant that will provide 300 test kits for homeowners for a suggested donation of \$5. Money collected from donations will be used to purchase additional kits. Audrey asked what results were coming from the radon tests. John stated that some of the tests are coming in high and that the results from the tests are sent to the health department as well as to the homeowners. Information on mitigation is given to those whose tests have come back high.

The Beach Monitoring program is up and running again this year and will provide for weekly testing of several beaches in the county.

Judy said that the budget process for 2010 has begun. She distributed a copy of the SWOTS (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) form that was filled out by staff as a first step in the budget process. Judy reviewed each entry on the form (attached).

There is a new active TB case. Family members and close contacts have been tested and will be re-tested in July. An E-Coli case is linked to an outbreak in Arkansas.

The format has been given to us by the state for the state audit. This audit is conducted every four years and will be a self-evaluation this time. Staff will complete the tool by the end of October.

Judy and staff will be working with partners on community re-assessment.

The county has contracted with a safety consultant who will be meeting with all departments to develop a county-wide staff safety policy and procedure that is relevant to the individual department needs. Judy is meeting with this consultant to adapt safety policies and procedures that have already been developed for the health department. Audrey asked about the alarm system that had been removed from last year's budget. Judy responded that the funding for that security system was restored by the Human Services committee.

A public health nurse has resigned and will be leaving the department this summer. It's not clear whether we will be allowed to immediately fill that position.

Judy distributed a newsletter that the state sent out to boards of health members. Members indicated that they did receive this newsletter in the mail.

MOTION: To receive the report and place on file. Van Deurzen / Scray

MOTION CARRIED

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Audrey stated that it would be appropriate for the board to go on record supporting the director in her response to the H1N1 situation. Judy asked that the staff also be included.

MOTION: The Board of Health goes on record in support of the director of our health department and the entire staff as they provided professional service to our community in a very comprehensive way through the Novel H1N1 Influenza situation.
Scray / Pfothhauer

MOTION CARRIED

Mary Scray asked if Judy has talked with Executive Hinz regarding the vacancy on the board. Judy said that she has talked with the Executive's office who agreed to allow her to pursue leads with the executive director of the Hmong Center. Mary said that she had indicated that she would pass along that the new board member should be a Brown County Health Department jurisdiction resident.

8. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 5:30 PM. This will allow the board to give input prior to the budget being due (July 24) to the Department of Administration.

MOTION: To Adjourn at 6:40 PM. Scray / Van Deurzen
MOTION CARRIED